

OLC 401- Writing Descriptive Paragraphs

Purpose: to describe a person, place, thing to create a clear vivid picture with words

Writing Tips: Give a lot of describing words. Give sensory details: sight, sound, smell, taste and touch

1. Once you have settled on a topic for your descriptive paragraph collect some details, you're ready to assemble those details in a rough draft that begins with a topic sentence.



Pay attention to the details and *show* the reader what you mean. Specific details create word pictures that can make writing more interesting and easier to understand. Describe particular smells and tastes in the paragraph. Use the most descriptive words possible to allow the reader to smell or taste what you are describing. For example: "The homemade cookies filled the air with the scent of warm chocolate, and the chocolate morsels filled your mouth with the taste of cocoa."



Next, you will put these details into sentences and organize the sentences into a paragraph. Add the senses of touch and hearing to your paragraph wherever possible. Describe certain textures and sounds. For example: "The silk garment felt smooth and fluid over my skin, and it had the sound of a gentle breeze."



Use similes and metaphors when you write your descriptive paragraph. These literary devices strengthen your paragraph if used properly. For example: "my pillow felt as soft as a cloud"



Now you will revise your descriptive paragraph, concentrating on its organization. That is, you will check to see that your sentences follow a clear and logical order, each detail related to the one that came before and leading to the one that follows



You're *almost* done. It's now time to invite someone else (a classmate, for example, or your instructor) to read your descriptive paragraph and suggest ways to improve it.

My topic is

Some details about my topic:

Topic Sentence:

Descriptive Words I can use

Similes or Metaphors I can use to describe details

Rough Paragraph

Self/Peer/Teacher Revisions